

**JUDICIAL BRANCH
COURT SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION
FAMILY SERVICES**



**FAMILY VIOLENCE
CASE PROCESSING AND PROGRAMS**

FAMILY VIOLENCE PROCESSING FUNCTIONS

Family Violence Arraignment Proceedings

Family Relations Counselors complete a pre-arraignment family violence screen for all family violence arraignment cases (30,427 in 2009) in preparation for a recommendation to the court. This screening process includes, but is not limited to:

- Case Data Record (Defendant demographic and psycho-social information)
- Criminal history investigation
- Handgun and firearm screening
- Risk Assessment screening
- Victim interview/input
- Case coordination with victim advocate
- Protective order determination
- GPS Screen (3 pilot locations Bridgeport, Danielson, and Hartford)
- Treatment and/or additional services recommendation
- Family Services referral recommendation for the Court's approval
- AIC Pre-trial case management services

Family Violence Case Assessments

Family Relations Counselors complete a family violence case assessment for all cases (20,678 in 2009) that are referred to CSSD Family Services subsequent to the domestic violence arraignment screening process. Case assessments include, but are not limited to:

- In-depth victim interview
- In-depth defendant interview
- Coordination with court-based victim advocates
- Preparation of a detailed case assessment for the Court's review
- Recommendations offered to the Court

Pre-Trial Supervision Services (Diversionary Program Administration)

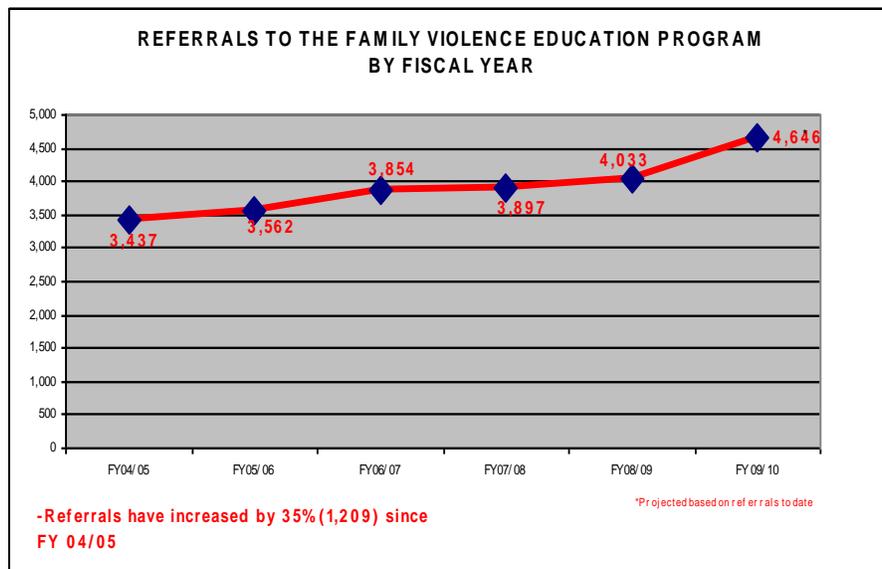
Family Relations Counselors administer diversionary programs/court-ordered interventions and provide administrative monitoring and supervision for cases (15,703 in 2009) referred to CSSD Family Services. CSSD Family Violence diversionary programs include the Family Violence Education Program (FVEP), EXPLORE Program and the EVOLVE Program.

OFFENDER PROGRAMS

FAMILY VIOLENCE EDUCATION PROGRAM (FVEP)

The FVEP is a nine week, pre-trial diversionary program and cognitive intervention focused on educating offenders regarding the impact of violence on relationships. The FVEP provides offenders with the building blocks of interpersonal skills to develop violence-free relationships and an understanding of power and control dynamics.

There has been a significant rise in the number of referrals to the program and the number of FVEP cycles offered to meet the court demand. Specifically, there will be a projected increase of 1,209 referrals to FVEP since FY04/05 (35%) and an increase of 77 FVEP cycles completed since FY04/05 (56%).

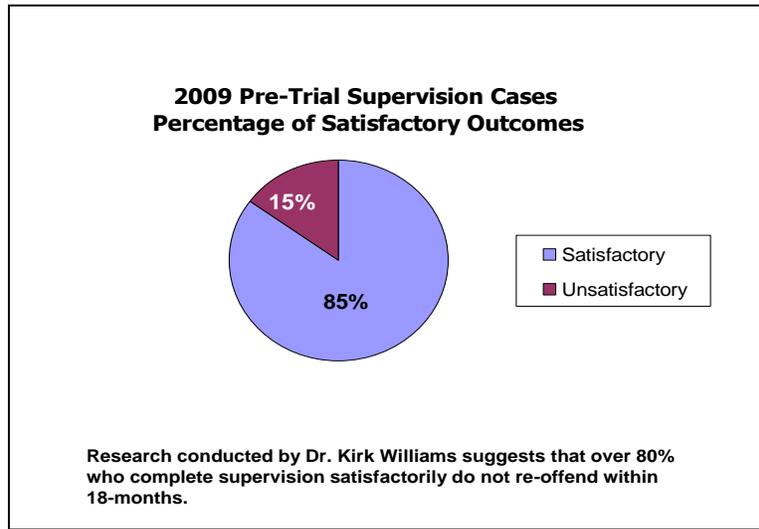


FVEP Risk Reduction Indicator Reports are generated quarterly and reflect the performance of the program with current outcomes pointing to effective service delivery. Some examples from the most recent quarter include:

- Statewide program completion rates are 71%, slightly above the goal of 70%
- Re-arrest rates up to 12 months post-program completion is 13%, a very low rate of recidivism
- Wait time for completers to enter the program is 64 days, slightly higher than the statewide goal of 60 days
- The no-show rate for offenders referred to the FVEP program is 28%, above the statewide goal of 20%

These outcomes point to the positive trends that are occurring, especially as it relates to recidivism after program completion. Given that the re-arrest rate is low 12 months after program completion, this is a promising result relating directly to program effectiveness.

In terms of recent research findings, over 80% of offenders who completed Pre-Trial Supervision (of which the FVEP is a major component) under Family Services do not re-offend within 18 months.

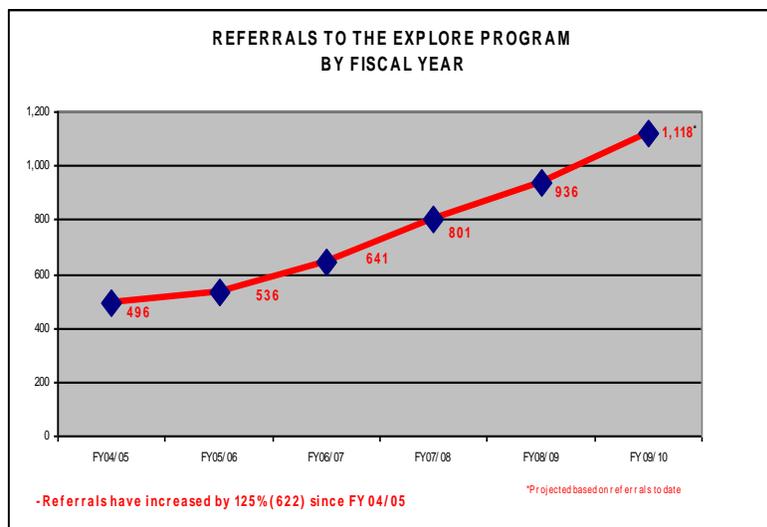


EXPLORE PROGRAM

The EXPLORE program is a 26-session, group-based intervention for men convicted of domestic violence offenses. Each offender attends one, 1.5-hour group each week for 26 weeks. The focus of this program is education and behavior change through developing awareness, building positive interpersonal conflict resolution and behavior management skills, and understanding the harmful effects of violence on victims and children.

Current EXPLORE program outcomes that are gathered on a quarterly basis include number of referrals (projected FY 09/10=1,118), average attendance per group (11 offenders attending), and satisfactory discharge rate (71%).

- There has been an increase of 622 referrals to the EXPLORE since FY04/05 (125%)
- There has been an increase of 835 EXPLORE groups completed since FY04/05 (123%)

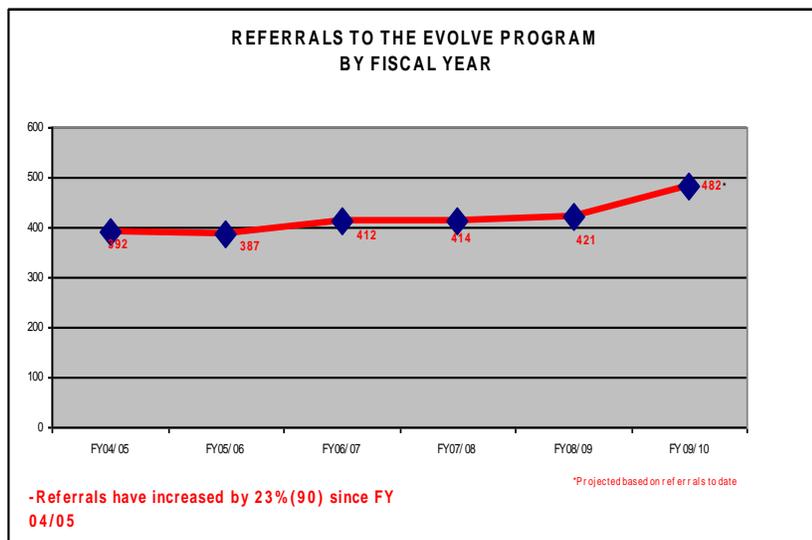


In terms of research, a 2005 National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Study was completed regarding the EXPLORE and EVOLVE programs. A major finding demonstrated that for EXPLORE program completers, 93% were not re-arrested for a DV crime and 76% were not re-arrested in general.

EVOLVE PROGRAM

The EVOLVE program is a 52-session, culturally competent and intensive group intervention designed for post plea/ conviction, high-risk offenders. Each male offender is required to attend two groups per week, two hours in length for 26 weeks. The impact of violence on victims and children, behavior change, interrelation and communication skill building, and responsible parenting/fatherhood are vital components of this program model.

This fiscal year, 482 referrals are projected, an increase of 90 referrals to EVOLVE since FY04/05 (23%). In addition, 1,682 EVOLVE groups are projected to be completed this fiscal year, and this is an increase of 530 groups completed since FY 04/05 (46%). Quarterly outcomes for this program include average attendance per group (11 offenders attending) and satisfactory discharge rate (76%).



In terms of research, a 2005 National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Study was completed regarding the EXPLORE and EVOLVE Programs. For EVOLVE program completers, 91% were not re-arrested for a DV crime and 83% were not re-arrested in general.

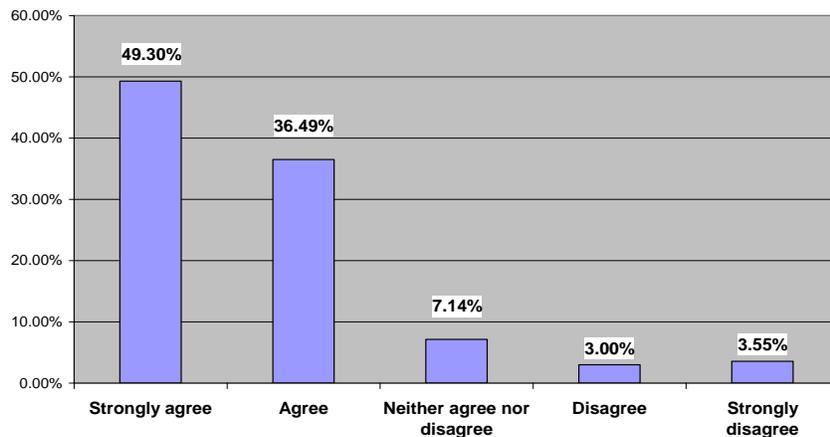
In the near future, the EXPLORE and EVOLVE program, via CSSD's Contractor Data Collection System (CDCS), will have quarterly Risk Reduction Indicators and associated reports. Currently, the statewide goals have been set and data quality analyses are underway. It is anticipated that the reports will be generated in the summer of 2010.

2009 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SANCTION PROGRAM PARTICIPANT EVALUATION OUTCOMES

After completion of FVEP, EXPLORE and EVOLVE, the participants voluntarily fill out a participant evaluation form. This survey contains 20 questions and includes the participants reported reductions in use of violence, changes in their behavior and attitude, obtaining of skills for non-violence approaches, and their rating of facilitator performance. Some examples are provided below:

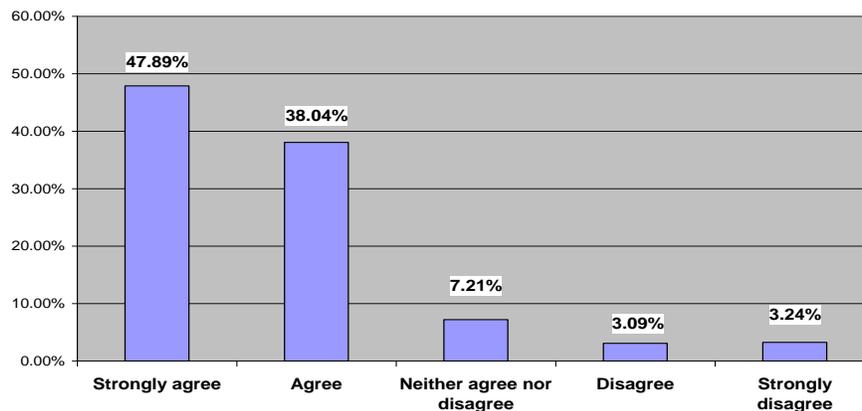
- 92% of the respondents indicated that since starting the program they had NOT been physically violent with their partner.
- 86% of the respondents indicated that since starting the program they noticed changes in their behavior toward themselves, their partners and/or others.

**PERCENT OF OFFENDERS THAT HAVE NOTICED CHANGES IN THEIR
BEHAVIOR TOWARD THEMSELVES, THEIR PARTNERS, AND/OR OTHERS
SINCE STARTING THE PROGRAM**



- 86% of the respondents indicated that since starting the program they noticed changes in their attitudes toward themselves, their partners and/or others.

**PERCENT OF OFFENDERS THAT HAVE NOTICED CHANGES IN THEIR
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- 88% of the respondents indicated that as a result of being in the program they gained an increased understanding of their controlling behaviors
- 93% of the respondents indicated that the program provided practical information and techniques
- 93% of the respondents indicated that the program facilitators appeared knowledgeable about the topic